



## CHALLENGE 1

# BE A POWER SAVER!



*A Sustainable Community Starts at Home*

## *What is the* **Frederick County Green Homes Challenge?**

A sustainable community starts at home and the Green Homes Challenge helps residents take action at home to save energy, adopt green lifestyle practices, and use renewable energy. The initiative is comprised of three corresponding challenges and certification programs: Power Saver, Green Leader and Renewable Star.

If you're concerned about --

- Rising energy costs or utility bills,
- Declining quality of life for your children and grandchildren,
- The impacts of climate change or environmental degradation, or
- Our national energy supply and security,

then, it is time to turn that concern into personal action right in your own home. The Challenge will inspire and guide you to do just that! Your household's energy use and routine living habits do make a difference! We'll provide resources and activities that will make it easy to improve the efficiency and comfort of your home and save you some real green!

Whether you've been held back by a lack of information, financial resources, or personal motivation... whether you prefer to do-it-yourself or work with a mentor or group... whether you want to certify your home or not... the Challenge provides everything you need to get started and take action.



### **Are you up to the Challenge?**

To learn more, register, or obtain the  
Green Homes Challenge Handbooks

**Call: 301.600.6864**

**Email: [GreenHomes@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:GreenHomes@FrederickCountyMD.gov)**

**Visit: [www.SustainableFrederickCounty.org/GreenHomes](http://www.SustainableFrederickCounty.org/GreenHomes)**



## *Can You Meet the* **Power Saver Challenge?**

By engaging in the Power Saver Challenge you'll be saving energy and money not

only for your own household but also for our nation as a whole! Did you know that if every US household saved just 1,000 kWh/year, the energy savings would be enough to power 11 million households—that's more than all the households in MD, PA, VA, WV and DE combined! New technologies, government policies and building codes may take years to generate significant outcomes, but saving energy is something all of us can do right now! Take the Challenge today and

*Save Our Energy, Bank Your Money!*

### *More Reasons to*

## **Take the Challenge Now!**

### **2010-11 Prizes & Incentives!**

- Earn a FREE Watt Watchers Comprehensive Audit, valued at \$140, for hosting a Powerware Party or serving as a Green Ambassador! (Limited availability. See FAQs)
- Earn coupons from local businesses for saving energy with Earth Aid!
- Be one of the first 50 certified Power Savers and receive a special prize -- a \$50 value!
- All certified households are automatically entered into an annual drawing for high-value prizes!

### **Gain Recognition!**

- You'll be invited to a televised recognition ceremony with public officials.
- You'll receive a Power Saver window decal and yard sign. Display them so others learn about the Power Saver Challenge!
- With your permission, your name will appear on the Green Homes Challenge web site and in the FNP GREEN quarterly magazine.
- Your family may even have the option to be interviewed and profiled on TV, the web or in local newspapers.

## **Next Steps...**



## **CHALLENGE 2:**

### **Be a GREEN LEADER**

*Green Your Lifestyle,  
Protect Our Resources!*

## Power Saver Basics

You can engage in the Challenge to any degree that suits your household. You may want to use the free Power Saver Handbook to try some low-cost energy saving actions, or you may want to go all the way, meet the Challenge and certify your home at the Power Saver level!

These Resources will help you get started:

- Free **Power Saver Handbook** – contains everything you need to save energy and certify your home
- **Earth Aid** on-line energy tracking & reward tool ([EarthAid.net/FrederickCounty](http://EarthAid.net/FrederickCounty))
- **Green Ambassadors** – local support leaders



*A home energy auditor conducting a blower door test.*

## Take it Step by Step

## Power Saver Actions & Certification

If certification is your goal, you'll need to earn 50 Green Points using your Power Saver Handbook. Points are acquired as you complete actions such as these:

1. Register and attend or host a **Powerware Party**. It's a fun way to become more "power-aware" and learn what you can do to lower utility bills.
2. Learn how to prepare for a Home Energy Audit.
3. Conduct your **Home Energy Audit**. Take advantage of free or low-cost Watt Watchers options through Allegheny Power (1.877.928.8928)
4. Complete an **Energy Saving Action Plan**. Prioritize energy-saving projects identified during your home energy audit.
5. Track your energy use. Register with **EarthAid.net/FrederickCounty**.
6. **Implement energy-saving projects** at home. The Power Saver Handbook and Earth Aid web site recommend actions that will save you both energy and money.
7. Earn bonuses for taking on **leadership roles**. (See FAQs)
8. **Apply for Power Saver Certification**. Get recognized and receive rewards!



**CHALLENGE 3:**  
**Be a RENEWABLE STAR**  
*Renew Your Energy,  
Clear Our Air!*

*Learn about these  
successive challenges at  
[SustainableFrederickCounty.org/  
GreenHomes](http://SustainableFrederickCounty.org/GreenHomes)*

# Power Saver FAQs

## What is a Home Energy Audit?

During a home energy, or home performance audit, a certified professional evaluates your home to determine where and how energy is being lost, what systems are operating inefficiently, and what cost-effective improvements can be implemented to enhance comfort, make your home more durable, and lower energy use and utility bills.



## What's a Powerware Party?

Powerware Parties are fun, interactive gatherings of 10-20 people interested in becoming more "power-aware." Modeled loosely after Tupperware parties, but without a product purchasing focus, we'll distribute energy efficiency gifts, engage in activities to learn about energy, promote sharing and discussion, and demonstrate simple energy saving devices.

## Can I organize a Powerware Party?

Yes, anyone can host a Powerware Party! Just gather friends or colleagues and provide some refreshments. A Green Homes Challenge representative will attend and lead the group.

## How can I spread the word and inspire others?

If you're motivated to help others in your networks take action at home for a greener Frederick County, consider becoming a **Green Ambassador!** You can serve individually or pair up with another Green Ambassador in your business, faith or community organization. Being a Green Ambassador is a flexible role; you can use the Green Homes Challenge resources and implement your own creative ideas as well. You may distribute resources, organize energy saving workshops or Powerware Parties, motivate others to complete Green Homes Challenge certification or initiate a Green Team. Green Ambassadors receive incentives and support from the Green Homes Challenge staff.

## I'm already a great energy saver, can I participate and be recognized?

Absolutely! The Green Homes Challenge also rewards and recognizes front-runner households who have already had home performance audits and taken energy saving actions! Use the Power Saver Handbook to record your actions, sign up with Earth Aid, and submit your certification form to receive additional financial rewards and recognition!

## Green Homes Challenge Partners

- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Allegheny Power Watt Watchers Program
- Earth Aid
- Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Frederick County Department of Housing and Community Development
- Frederick County Sustainability Commission
- Lancaster Craftsman Builders

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## Contact Information



### **Green Homes Challenge Coordinator**

Phone: 301.600.6864

[GreenHomes@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:GreenHomes@FrederickCountyMD.gov)

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[www.SustainableFrederickCounty.org](http://www.SustainableFrederickCounty.org)